

Message Text

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61

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 236853

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOVIET DELEGATION IN ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY
EDUCATION

REF: STATE 220917

1. SOVDEL DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW EVENING OCT. 23. ITINERARY
WAS AS LISTED REFTEL, WITH ADDITION VISIT TO U OF TEXAS AT
AUSTIN OCT. 15-16, AND U OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST OCT.
21-22. AFTER ARRIVAL WASHINGTON, SOVDEL CLAIMED
THAT IT COULD STAY MORE THAN 11 DAYS WHEREUPON DEPT EXTENDED
VISIT TO OCTOBER 23.

2. SOVDEL APPEARED HIGHLY PLEASED WITH PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH
THEY WERE INADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR VISIT. SPECIFICALLY
LACKING WAS COMPREHENSION OF STRUCTURE OF US EDUCATION
SYSTEM, WHICH IT WAS NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL, LIMIT-
ING TIME POSSIBLE TO DEVOTE TO MORE ADVANCED TOPICS. SOME-
TIMES HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY FOLLOWING EDUCATORS WHO
SPOKE ON RECENT ADVANCES IN EDUCATION.

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3. DURING VISIT TO HIGH SCHOOL NEWTONVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS, DELEGATION RECEIVED A FEW POLITICAL QUESTIONS BUT DELEGATION GAVE STANDARD ANSWERS AND DID NOT APPEAR MIFFED BY EXPER-

IENCE. ALSO MET WITH RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STUDENTS. SOVDEL WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT STUDENTS KNEW ABOUT USSR.

4. FULL-DAY PROGRAM AT TEACHER'S COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS ON TRAINING OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN AND COMPARISON OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. LATTER DISCUSSION CONDUCTED IN RUSSIAN WITH PROFESSOR GEORGE BEREDAY. INGERSOLL

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